

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-2. (Cancel).

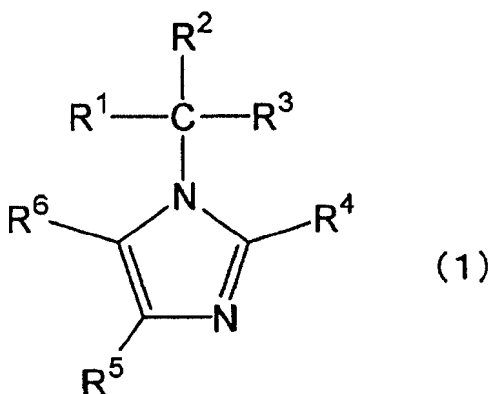
3. (Previously Presented) The radiation-sensitive resin composition according to Claim 18, wherein the photoacid generator (B) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of onium salt compounds and oximesulfonate compounds.

4. (Currently Amended) A positive tone [The] radiation-sensitive resin composition ~~according to claim 16, comprising:~~

(A) compound shown by the following formula (1),

(B) a photoacid generator, and

(C-a) a resin protected by an acid-dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid-dissociable group dissociates,

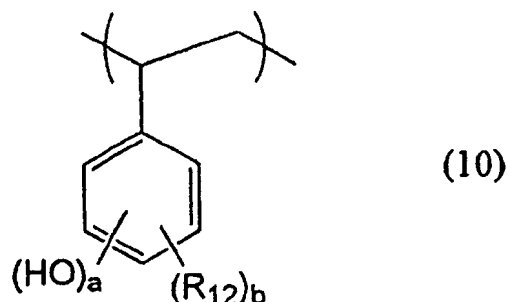


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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> individually represent a hydrogen atom, cyano group, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1-20 carbon atoms, substituted or

unsubstituted alicyclic group having 3-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, provided that any two groups selected from  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$  may be bonded together to form a ring which may comprise a hetero atom or may bond together to form a dimer and further provided that at least one of the  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$  groups is not a hydrogen atom;

wherein the resin (C-a) protected by an acid-dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid-dissociable group dissociates comprises a recurring unit of the following formula (10),



wherein  $R_{12}$  represents a hydrogen atom or monovalent organic group and a and b indicates a natural number from 1 to 3.

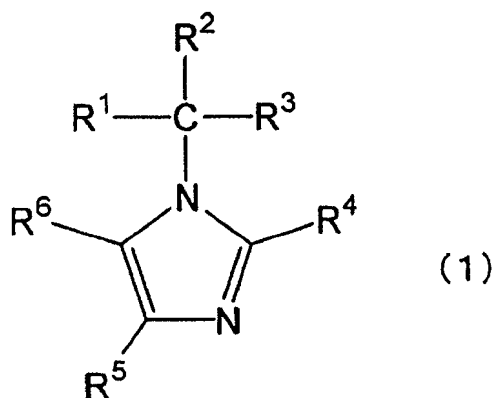
5. (Cancel).

6. (Currently Amended) A positive tone [The] radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 16, comprising:

(A) compound shown by the following formula (1),

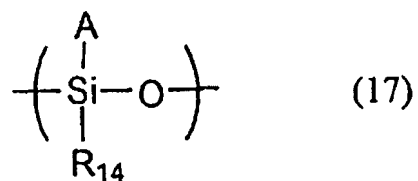
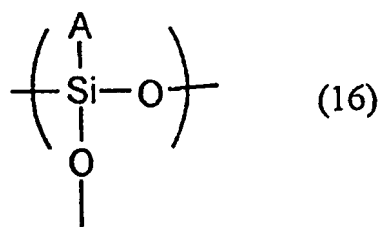
(B) a photoacid generator, and

(C-a) a resin protected by an acid-dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid-dissociable group dissociates,



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> individually represent a hydrogen atom, cyano group, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic group having 3-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, provided that any two groups selected from R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> may be bonded together to form a ring which may comprise a hetero atom or may bond together to form a dimer and further provided that at least one of the R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> groups is not a hydrogen atom;

wherein the resin (C-a) protected by an acid-dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid-dissociable group dissociates, comprises at least one of the recurring units of the following formulas (16) or (17),



wherein A individually represents a monovalent organic group having an acid-dissociable group and R<sub>14</sub> represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear, branched, or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1-20 carbon atoms.

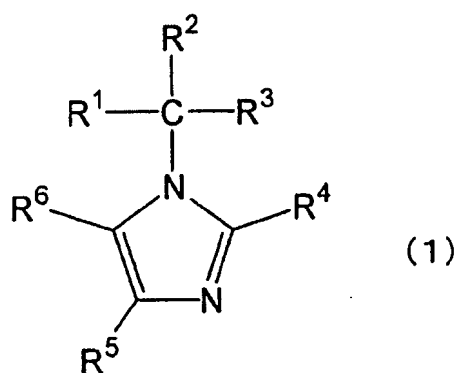
7. (Previously Presented) A negative tone radiation-sensitive resin composition comprising:

(A) compound shown by the following formula (1),

(B) a photoacid generator,

(D) an alkali-soluble resin, and

(E) a compound that can crosslink the alkali-soluble resin in the presence of an acid



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> individually represent a hydrogen atom, cyano group, unsubstituted alkyl group having 1-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted

alicyclic group having 3-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, provided that any two groups selected from  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$  may be bonded together to form a ring which may comprise a hetero atom or may bond together to form a dimer and further provided that at least one of the  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$  groups is not a hydrogen atom.

8. (Original) The radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 7, wherein the photoacid generator (B) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of onium salt compounds, sulfone compounds, sulfonate compounds, sulfonimide compounds, diazomethane compounds, disulfonylmethane compounds, and oximesulfonate compounds.

9. (Original) The radiation-sensitive resin composition according to claim 7, wherein the photoacid generator (B) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of onium salt compounds and oximesulfonate compounds.

10. (Previously Presented) A positive tone radiation-sensitive resin composition comprising:

(A) a compound selected from the group consisting of: 1-cyclohexylimidazole; 1-phenylimidazole; 1-naphtylimidazole; 1-anthrylimidazole; 1-norbornylimidazole; 1-adamantylimidazole; 1-(2'-hydroxyethyl)imidazole; 1-(3'-hydroxy-n-butyl)imidazole; 1-methoxyimidazole; 1-(2'-methyl-n-propoxy)imidazole; 1-cyanoimidazole; 1-(2'-cyanomethyl)imidazole; 1-methoxycarbonylimidazole; 1-ethoxycarbonylethoxyimidazole; 1-trifluoromethylimidazole; 1,2,4-trimethylimidazole; 1, 2, 4, 5-tetramethylimidazole; 1,2-dihexylimidazole; 1-ethyl-2-cyclohexylimidazole;

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1,2,4,5-tetracyclopentylimidazole; 1,2-dinaphthylimidazole; 1,2-dinorbornylimidazole; 1,2,4-triadamantylimidazole; 1,2, 4, 5-tetraethoxycarbonylimidazole; 1-cyano-2-methylimidazole; 1-ethyl-2-methoxyimidazole; 1-(t-butoxycarbonylmethyl) imidazole; 1-(2',3'-dihydroxypropyl)-2-methylimidazole; and 1,3-di(2'-methyl-1'-imidazoymethyl)benzene

(B) a photoacid generator, and

(C) the following component (C-a) or (C-b),

(C-a) a resin protected by an acid-dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid-dissociable group dissociates or

(C-b) an alkali-soluble resin and an alkali solubility controller.

11. (Previously Presented) The radiation-sensitive resin composition according to Claim 10, wherein the compound (A) is selected from the group consisting of: 1,2,4-trimethylimidazole; 1, 2, 4, 5-tetramethylimidazole; 1-(t-butoxycarbonylmethyl) imidazole; 1-(2',3'-dihydroxypropyl)-2-methylimidazole; and 1,3-di(2'-methyl-1'-imidazoymethyl)benzene.

12. (Cancel).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The positive tone radiation-sensitive resin composition of Claim 4 comprising:

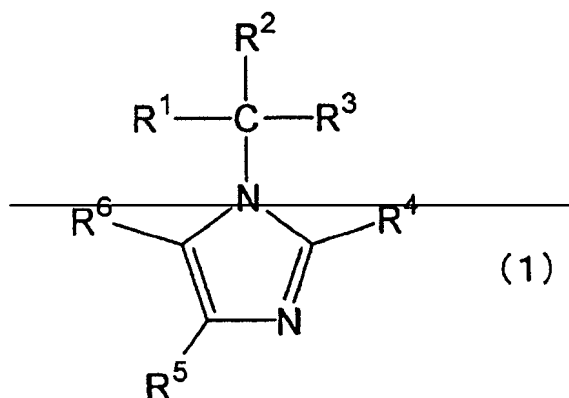
~~(A) compound shown by the following formula (1),~~

~~(B) a photoacid generator, and~~

~~(C) the following component (C-a) or (C-b),~~

~~(C-a) a resin protected by an acid dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid dissociable group dissociates or~~

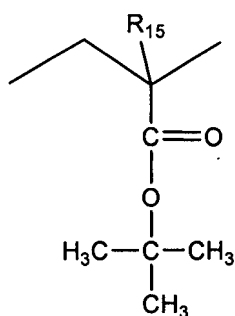
~~(C-b) an alkali soluble resin and an alkali solubility controller,~~



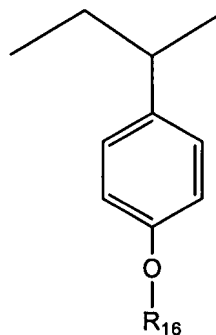
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> individually represent a hydrogen atom, cyano group, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic group having 3-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is a cyano group, an unsubstituted alkyl group having 6-20 carbon atoms, a substituted alkyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic group having 6-20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, provided that any two groups selected from R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> may be bonded together to form a ring which may comprise a hetero atom or may bond together to form a dimer.

14. (Previously Presented) The radiation-sensitive resin compositions according to Claim 18, wherein the photoacid generator (B) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of onium salt compounds and diazomethane compounds.

15. (Previously Presented) The radiation-sensitive resin composition according to Claim 4, wherein the resin (C-a) protected by an acid dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid-dissociable group dissociates further comprises at least one recurring unit of the following formula (10-1) or (10-2),



(10-1)



(10-2)

wherein R<sub>15</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R<sub>16</sub> represents a 1-branched alkyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group or a 1-substituted ethyl group.

16-17. (Cancel)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The positive tone radiation-sensitive resin composition of Claim 4, wherein comprising:

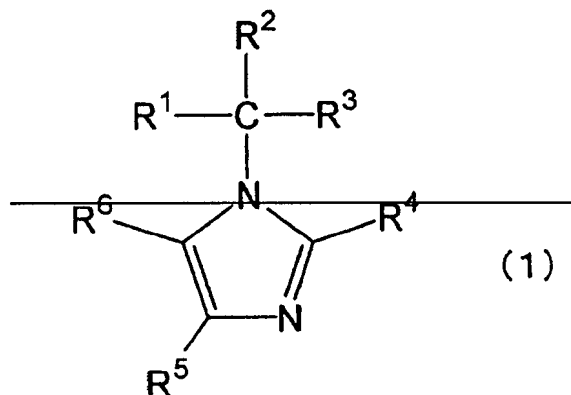
~~(A) compound shown by the following formula (1),~~

~~(B) a~~ the photoacid generator ~~comprising comprises~~ at least one compound selected from the group consisting of onium salt compounds, sulfone compounds, sulfonimide compounds, diazomethane compounds, disulfonylmethane compounds, and oximesulfonate compounds;

~~(C) the following component (C-a) or (C-b),~~



~~(C-a) a resin protected by an acid dissociable group, insoluble or scarcely soluble in alkali, but becoming soluble in alkali when the acid dissociable group dissociates or~~  
~~(C-b) an alkali soluble resin and an alkali solubility controller;~~



~~wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> individually represent a hydrogen atom, cyano group, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic group having 3-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2-20 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, provided that any two groups selected from R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> may be bonded together to form a ring which may comprise a hetero atom or may bond together to form a dimer and further provided that at least one of the R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> groups is not a hydrogen atom.~~

19. (Cancel).